20. Al-Qabid (The Withholder)

"Sometimes Allah withholds to give; He creates thirst in you that leads you to water."

- Jalaluddin Rumi (1207-1273 CE)
Source: "Mathnawi"
Book III

Whoever writes (with saffron or by the mere action of ones finger) this Attribute of Allah on four morsels of bread (or roti) daily for 4 consecutive days and eats them, such a person will be safeguarded against hunger, thirst, injuries, pain etc, Insha Allah - Al Hisnul Hasin

21. Al-Basit
(The Extender)

"When Allah expands your understanding, no prison can contain you; when He constrains it, no palace can comfort you."

- Abu'l Hasan al-Shadhili (1196-1258 CE)
Source: "Lata'if al-Minan"
(Subtle Blessings)

Lift the hands as in Dua after Salaatud-Duha and say this Name of Allah 10 times. Thereafter pass the hands across the face as when finishing the Dua. If this is done on a daily basis, Allah will grant self-sufficiency and independence.
Al Hisnul Hasin

BI'ISMIHI TA'AALA

Asmaa ul Husna

—

The Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ

Ml.Moosa Kajee

AL-QAABIDH ﷻ AL-BAASIT ﷻ (THE BEING WHO RESTRICTS ﷻ) (THE BEING WHO EXPANDS ﷻ)

Mullaa Ali Qaari ﷺ has mentioned, “Allaah ﷻ restricts and expands in everything i.e. character, sustenance, outward forms and souls. When Allaah ﷻ wants to restrict something, then no power can make it expand. When He ﷻ wants to expand, then nothing can prevent Him.” (Mirqaat)

والله يقبض و يبسط اى فى كل شيء من الاخلاق والأرزاق والاشباح والارواح اذا قبض فلا طاقة و اذا يبسط فلا فاقة

Allaah ﷻ states,

وَاللّٰهُ يَقْبِضُ وَيَبْسُطُ

And Allaah restricts and expands. (Baqarah verse 245)

It is necessary to mention these two names together, to show that Allaah ﷻ has full power over opposing forces. These two names encompass all existent things. A few examples are:

1.) Sustenance - Allaah ﷻ states, “Allaah ﷻ restricts and expands sustenance for whomsoever He wishes.” This is based on His divine wisdom and planning. At times, Allaah ﷻ loves a servant and knows that if he is granted more sustenance, it will lead to his destruction. Allaah ﷻ states, “If Allaah expands sustenance for His servants, they would have caused oppression in the land.” (Shoora verse 27)

All wealth and poverty lies in the control of Al-Qaabidh ﷻ and Al-Baasit ﷻ and to Him do we all have to return one day. Making a pauper a king, snatching away a kingdom from a king, making a strong person weak and a weak person strong, is all in the control of Al-Qaabidh ﷻ and Al-Baasit ﷻ.

Imam Ahmad ibn Ishaaq ibn Yahyaa Raawandi ﷺ has so aptly stated, “How many intelligent people there are on whom the means of

sustenance are straitened. And how many ignorant people there are (unaware of any method of earning livelihood), whom you will see with an abundance of sustenance. This has left the minds of people amazed and it has made a knowledgeable skilled person a disbeliever." (Mukhtasarul-Ma'aani)

This is that thing which strengthens the heart of a weak believer that the treasures of sustenance are in the control of that Being who is Al-Qaabidh ﷻ and Al-Baasit ﷻ.

The Qur'an explains this point to us in the incident of Taalut. When the Bani Israeel requested Hadhrat Shamuel ؑ to appoint a king over them with whom they could join and fight the enemy, then Allaah ﷻ made Taalut their leader. He was a poor and hard-working man. In the eyes of the Bani Israeel, he was not fit for ruler ship. However, Allaah ﷻ said,

وَاللّٰهُ يُؤْتِى مُلْكَه مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَاللّٰهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيْمٌ

And Allaah ﷻ grants His monarchy to whomsoever He wishes. And Allaah is Bountiful All-Knowing. (Baqarah)

Being well to do or not is neither based on one's level of intelligence nor on one's abilities and capabilities. This is solely the grace of Allaah ﷻ, on whomsoever He wishes, and in whichever condition He keeps his slaves.

2.) Clouds – Allaah ﷻ gathers water together to form clouds and then spreads them out.

اللَّهُ الَّذِي يُرْسِلُ الرِّيَاحَ فَتُثِيرُ سَحَابًا فَيَبْسُطُهُ فِي السَّمَاء كَيْفَ يَشَاء وَيَجْعَلُهُ كِسَفًا فَتَرَى الْوَدْقَ يَخْرُجُ مِنْ خِلَالِهِ فَإِذَا أَصَابَ بِهِ مَن يَشَاء مِنْ عِبَادِهِ إِذَا هُمْ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ

Allah is He Who sends the winds, so they raise clouds, and spread them along the sky as He wills, and then break them into fragments, until you see rain drops come forth from their midst! Then when He has made them fall on whom of His slaves as He will, lo! they rejoice! (Room)

3.) Shade and light – Allaah ﷻ spreads out the shadow in the morning and gathers it till midday. Then He ﷻ spreads it again till sunset.

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى رَبِّكَ كَيْفَ مَدَّ الظِّلَّ وَلَوْ شَاء لَجَعَلَهُ سَاكِنًا ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا الشَّمْسَ عَلَيْهِ دَلِيلًا ثُمَّ قَبَضْنَاهُ إِلَيْنَا قَبْضًا يَسِيرًا

Have you not seen how your Sustainer spread the shadow. If He willed, He could have made it still. Then We have made the sun its guide [i.e. after the sunrise, it (the shadow) squeezes and vanishes at midnoon and then again appears in the afternoon with the decline of the sun, and had there been no sun light, there would have been no shadow]. Then We withdraw it to Us a gradual concealed withdrawal. (Furqaan)

4.) Souls - Al-Qaabidh ﷻ and Al-Baasit ﷻ is that Being who seizes the soul from the person at the time of death and who spreads the soul in the body at the time of giving life.

اللَّهُ يَتَوَفَّى الْأَنفُسَ حِينَ مَوْتِهَا وَالَّتِي لَمْ تَمُتْ فِي مَنَامِهَا فَيُمْسِكُ الَّتِي قَضَى عَلَيْهَا الْمَوْتَ وَيُرْسِلُ الْأُخْرَى إِلَى أَجَلٍ مُسَمًّى إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

Allaah takes away the lives when the time for their death arrives, and those that do not die, He takes them away in their sleep. Then He withholds those upon whom He decreed death and conveys others till an appointed time. In this are signs for those who ponder. (Zumur)

5.) Heart - At times the heart is restricted for misguidance or opened up for guidance; and at times this expanding and restricting is with regards to fear and hope.